

# Spring Mill State Park

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/interpretiveservices/programs/schedule/>

## December 2006

Nature Center Hours:  
Daily 10:00am-5:00pm

Pioneer Village Hours:  
December 1 and 2 ONLY  
1:00pm – 9:00pm  
Gristmill Does Not Operate

Twin Caves Hours:  
Closed for the Season

Grissom Memorial Hours:  
Daily 8:30am-4:00pm

Property Mgr: Mark Young

Asst. Property Mgr.: Jon Winne

Interpretive Naturalists: Jill Vance  
and Scott Stowers

Pioneer Village Staff: Housekeeper,  
Weaver, Leatherworker, Quilter,  
Blacksmith, Miller, and Gardener

Program Specialist: Dave Williams

**Public programs are designed for individuals and families.**

If you will be bringing an organized group, you can contact the Nature Center in advance and schedule a private program just for your group (\$1/person charge). (812) 849-4129

**NOTICE: Trails 1 and 5 are currently closed for repairs.**

**HP-HP Healthy Parks – Healthy People**

Get “INShape” with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.



Look for our hikes and strolls!

Watch for the roving naturalist!



### Friday, December 1 *Holiday in the Village*

**1pm-9pm** Celebrate the Holiday Season in the Pioneer Village – Candles glow in the windows and lamps light the rooms, as the Pioneer Village prepares to celebrate an 1863 Christmas. Savor the smell the wassail simmering on the stove and holiday cookies baking in the oven, as pioneer reenactors craft holiday gifts and decorations. Don't forget to bring your children over to the Gristmill to meet Father Christmas! Pioneer Village.



### Saturday, December 2 *Holiday in the Village*


**1pm-9pm** Celebrate the Holiday Season in the Pioneer Village – Candles glow in the windows and lamps light the rooms, as the Pioneer Village prepares to celebrate an 1863 Christmas. Savor the smell the wassail simmering on the stove and holiday cookies baking in the oven, as pioneer reenactors craft holiday gifts and decorations. Don't forget to bring your children over to the Gristmill to meet Father Christmas! During the evening, “Wildflowers & Weeds” will perform traditional Christmas music. Pioneer Village.



**7:00pm** Holiday Campsite Decorating Contest – Bring your seasonal decorating flair to the campground and turn it loose on your campsite! All decorations must be in place by 7:00pm; decorating a campsite automatically enters you into the contest. Judges will award prizes to the top three campsites by 8:30pm. Sponsored by the Spring Mill Inn and Root's RV in Mitchell. Campground.



## Sunday, December 3


- 11:00am**  **Trees in Winter** – Learn how to identify some of Spring Mill's common trees when there aren't any leaves to aid you. We'll examine bark, twigs, and leaf scars as we try to put a name to the tree. Meet in front of the Grissom Memorial (45 min).

## Monday, December 4 – Friday, December 8


Turn down the noise. Reduce the speed. Be like the somnolent bears, or those other animals that slow down and almost die in the cold season. Let it be the way it is. The magic is there in its power.

~ Henry Mitchell

## Saturday, December 9

- 11:00am** **Ice Cubism** – Create a unique painting using ice cubes while exploring the properties of frozen water. Nature Center, Program Room (20 min).
- 1:30pm**  **Where are they hiding?** – Search for some of the places that hibernating animals may be hiding during the winter months. Meet at the Nature Center (45 min). **HP-HP**


## Sunday, December 10

- 10:30am**  **Walking the Winter Woods** – We'll explore some of the plants that rest dormant, but visible, in the winter woods. Meet in front of the Grissom Memorial (45 min). **HP-HP**


## Monday, December 11 – Friday, December 15

*In a way Winter is the real Spring - the time when the inner things happen,  
the resurgence of nature. - Edna O'Brien*

## Saturday, December 16 Wright Brother's Day

- 10-11am** **Take Flight!** – Discover how a plane is able to soar through the air while building your own paper airplanes and testing their design. Grissom Memorial.
- 11:00am** **The Story of Orville and Wilbur** – Discover how two men from Indiana, working alone with little formal scientific training, became the first to conquer the air on December 17, 1903. Grissom Memorial, Program Room (30 min).
- 11am-1pm** **Solar Viewing** – The StoneBelt Stargazers will help you look for sun spots and solar flares as your gaze through a specially-fitted telescope at our closest star. Grissom Memorial.
- 1:00pm**  **Build a Biplane** – Build your own wooden model of a biplane, similar to the craft that lifted the Wright Brothers into history at Kitty Hawk. Not recommended for children under 8. Cost is \$5/kit; limited to 10 (first come, first served). Grissom Memorial, Program Room (1 hr).
- 2:15pm** **Movie: The Flying Machines** – This documentary will take you on a visit to the National Air and Space Museum's unique Paul E. Carter Facility, where historic air and space craft are restored and preserved. Grissom Memorial, Program Room (1 hr).
- 3:15pm** **The History of Flight** – A local pilot and flight historian will discuss the stories and events behind our ability to soar through the sky. Grissom Memorial, Program Room (30 min).

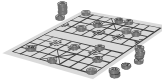
## Sunday, December 17

- 10:30am**  **Seeking Signs** – Not all animals sleep away the winter! There's still plenty of activity in the animal world and we'll look for the tracks and other signs they leave behind. Meet at Spring Mill Inn, Front Patio (45 min). **HP-HP**


## Monday, December 18 – Thursday, December 21


Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour. -John Boswell

## Friday, December 22

 **7-9pm Games by the Fireside** – Enjoy an evening of unique nature-based board games (you won't be able to play these anywhere else!) while savoring a delicious, hot spiced beverage. Visiting family? Bring them over to the Inn with you for the evening (the restaurant will be open for dinner from 5:00pm to 7:30pm). Spring Mill Inn, Lobby.

## Saturday, December 23

 **11:00am Beaded Snowflakes** – The whole family can join in on this craft and create a whole set of unique, beaded snowflakes to hang on a tree for the season. You'll also learn about the researcher who developed a system for classifying snowflakes. Nature Center, Program Room (30 min).

 **1-3pm Winter Wonders Scavenger Hunt** – Summer's greenery and Fall's leaves hide many things, now revealed by Winter! Bring the family and join in a park scavenger hunt to discover some of the wonders that have been unveiled. Start anytime between 1pm and 3pm, but you must return to the Nature Center by no later than 4:30pm. Prizes for everyone! *Some driving is required (and will give you a chance to warm back up!)*. Begin at the Nature Center, Receptionist's Desk.

## Sunday, December 24

*Wither shall ye wander? We suggest a quiet walk in the woods along Trail 3, where you can experience the virgin forest of Donaldson Woods.*

## Monday, December 25

The Nature Center and Grissom Memorial will be closed on Monday, December 25.


## Tuesday, December 26

**10-11am Birds of Winter** – Stop by for a glimpse at some of the birds that stick out through the cold months and pick up building plans for feeders. Nature Center. **HP-HP**

**2-3pm Feed the Birds** – Drop in and make a simple, pinecone bird feeder and help make the holidays happy for our feathered friends. Nature Center.

## Wednesday, December 27

**11:00am Icicle Imagination** – Create a glittering picture of icicles as we learn how the real thing forms. Nature Center, Program Room (20 min).

 **1:30pm Step Carefully** – Join us for a hike into an area of the park only accessible during the winter and in the company of a park employee. We'll explore the Mitchell Karst Plains Nature Preserve and discover why it deserves its special protection. Meet at Oak Ridge Shelter (1 hr). **HP-HP**

## Thursday, December 28 – Sunday, December 31

*In the depths of winter I finally learned that within me  
there lay an invincible summer. - Albert Camus*